1.  (Amended)  A method for management of a distributed data processing system, wherein the distributed data processing system is managed on behalf of a plurality of management customers, the method comprising:

configuring a first set of distributed discovery processes in accordance with a first set of configuration parameters;

initiating the first set of distributed discovery processes for discovering physical resources within the distributed data processing system;

analyzing status information that is generated by the first set of distributed discovery processes;

modifying a second set of configuration parameters in response to the analyzed status information; and

initiating a second set of distributed discovery processes for discovering physical resources within the distributed data processing system in accordance with the modified second set of configuration parameters.

3. (Amended)     An apparatus for management of a distributed data processing system, wherein the distributed data processing system is managed on behalf of a plurality of management customers, the apparatus comprising:

means for configuring a first set of distributed discovery processes in accordance with a first set of configuration parameters;

means for initiating the first set of distributed discovery processes for discovering physical resources within the distributed data processing system;

means for analyzing status information that is generated by the first set of distributed discovery processes;

means for modifying a second set of configuration parameters in response to the analyzed status information; and

means for initiating a second set of distributed discovery processes for discovering physical resources within the distributed data processing system in accordance with the modified second set of configuration parameters.

5.    (Amended)    A computer program product in a computer readable medium for managing a distributed data processing system, wherein the distributed data processing system is managed on behalf of a plurality of management customers, the computer program product comprising:

instructions for configuring a first set of distributed discovery processes in accordance with a first set of configuration parameters;

instructions for initiating the first set of distributed discovery processes for discovering physical resources within the distributed data processing system;

instructions for analyzing status information that is generated by the first set of distributed discovery processes;

instructions for modifying a second set of configuration parameters in response to the analyzed status information; and

instructions for initiating a second set of distributed discovery processes for discovering physical resources within the distributed data processing system in accordance with the modified second set of configuration parameters.

7. (New)    The method of claim 1 further comprising:

representing discovered physical resources within a set of scopes, wherein a scope comprises a logical organization of networks; and

associating each scope with a management customer.

8. (New)    The method of claim 1 wherein the first set of distributed discovery processes is initiated by a service provider that manages networks on behalf of the plurality of management customers.

9. (New)    The method of claim 8 wherein the second set of distributed discovery processes is initiated by a management customer.

10. (New)    The method of claim 1 wherein each discovery process uniquely executes in conjunction with an Object Request Broker (ORB).

11. (New)    The method of claim 1 further comprising:

configuring a set of customer-specified configuration parameters; and

executing the second set of distributed discovery processes in accordance with the set of customer-specified configuration parameters.

12. (New)    The method of claim 11 further comprising:

modifying the set of customer-specified configuration parameters; and

in response to modifying the set of customer-specified configuration parameters, modifying the second set of configuration parameters.

13. (New)      The method of claim 1 further comprising:

generating the second set of configuration parameters for use in initializing networks of a first management customer; and

copying the second set of configuration parameters for use in initializing networks of a second management customer.

14. (New)      The apparatus of claim 3 further comprising:

means for representing discovered physical resources within a set of scopes, wherein a scope comprises a logical organization of networks; and

means for associating each scope with a management customer.

15. (New)      The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the first set of distributed discovery processes is initiated by a service provider that manages networks on behalf of the plurality of management customers.

16. (New)      The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the second set of distributed discovery processes is initiated by a management customer.

17. (New)      The apparatus of claim 3 wherein each discovery process uniquely executes in conjunction with an Object Request Broker (ORB).

18. (New)      The apparatus of claim 3 further comprising:

means for configuring a set of customer-specified configuration parameters; and

means for executing the second set of distributed discovery processes in accordance with the set of customer-specified configuration parameters.

19. (New)   The apparatus of claim 18 further comprising:

means for modifying the set of customer-specified configuration parameters; and

means for modifying the second set of configuration parameters in response to modifying the set of customer-specified configuration parameters.

20. (New)   The apparatus of claim 3 further comprising:

means for generating the second set of configuration parameters for use in initializing networks of a first management customer; and

means for copying the second set of configuration parameters for use in initializing networks of a second management customer.

21. (New)   The computer program product of claim 5 further comprising:

instructions for representing discovered physical resources within a set of scopes, wherein a scope comprises a logical organization of networks; and

instructions for associating each scope with a management customer.

22. (New)   The computer program product of claim 5 wherein the first set of distributed discovery processes is initiated by a service provider that manages networks on behalf of the plurality of management customers.

23. (New)   The computer program product of claim 22 wherein the second set of distributed discovery processes is initiated by a management customer.